

EN

EN

EN



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 29/11/2007
C(2007) 5733 final

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29/11/2007

**adopting the multi-annual operational programme "Regional Competitiveness" for
Community assistance from the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance for the Regional
Development component in Croatia**

CCI 2007HR16IPO001

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29/11/2007

adopting the multi-annual operational programme "Regional Competitiveness" for Community assistance from the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance for the Regional Development component in Croatia

CCI 2007HR16IPO001

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)¹, and in particular Article 14(2) (b) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries for the period from 2007 to 2013.
- (2) In accordance with Article 155 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 implementing Council Regulation No 1085/2006², the assistance under the Regional Development and Human Resources Development components should be implemented through multi-annual operational programmes.
- (3) These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the general policy framework referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006, the applicable multi-annual indicative financial framework referred to in Article 5 of that Regulation and the relevant multi-annual indicative planning documents referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (4) The Council has established an Accession Partnership for Croatia³.
- (5) The Commission adopted on 8 November 2006 the multi-annual indicative financial framework for 2008 to 2010⁴, confirming the 2007 allocations.
- (6) The Commission adopted on 20 June 2007 the multi-annual indicative planning document for the years 2007-2009 for Croatia⁵ which presents the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to this country.
- (7) On 13 June 2007, Croatia submitted to the Commission a strategic coherence framework, based on that multi-annual indicative planning document, which, pursuant

1 OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.

2 OJ L 170, 29.6.2007, p. 1.

3 Council Decision 2006/145/EC of 20 February 2006, OJ L 55, 25.02.2006, p. 30

4 COM (2006)672 of 8 November 2006.

5 Commission Decision C(2007)2566 of 20 June 2007.

to Article 154(1) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007, constitutes a reference document for the programming of the Regional Development and Human Resources Development components.

- (8) On 29 March 2007, Croatia submitted to the Commission a proposal for a multi-annual operational programme "Regional Competitiveness" for Regional Development in this country.
- (9) The proposed operational programme has been drawn up by the operating structures in Croatia in close consultation with the Commission and the relevant stakeholders.
- (10) The proposed operational programme contains all the elements referred to in Article 155(2) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007, with the exception of an indicative list of major projects referred to in point (j) of that paragraph, as it is not expected that major projects will be submitted under this operational programme and is consistent with all the multi-annual documents referred to in Recitals 3 to 7. The draft programme contains, in particular, a description of the chosen strategic priority axes and the related measures chosen for assistance and an indicative financial table plan, specifying for each year covered by the applicable multi-annual indicative financial framework, and for each priority axis, the total amount of the Community contribution, the corresponding national contribution, where applicable identifying other external contributions, as well as the resulting rate of the Community contribution.
- (11) It is appropriate to set the maximum indicative amount of the Community contribution to the operational programme and the subsequent maximum co-financing rate for each priority axis, as referred to in Article 38(2) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007.
- (12) In accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 this decision meets the requirements of Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 1605/2002⁶ and constitutes thus a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 (2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁷.
- (13) The Coordination Committee of the Funds referred to in Article 103 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999⁸, which pursuant to Article 14(2) (b) of Regulation (EC) 1085/2006 shall assist the Commission, expressed its favourable opinion on the proposed operational programme.
- (14) The proposed operational programme should therefore be adopted.

6 OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1 Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.4.2007, p.13)

7 OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1).

8 OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25. Regulation as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1989/2006 (OJ L 411, 30.12.2006, p. 6).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The operational programme "Regional Competitiveness" for Community assistance under the IPA Regional Development component in Croatia as set out in Annex I and containing the following priority axes is hereby approved:

- (a) Priority Axis 1: Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions;
- (b) Priority Axis 2: Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy;
- (c) Priority Axis 3: Technical Assistance.

Article 2

1. The maximum indicative amount of the Community contribution from IPA under the operational programme, as calculated with reference to the public expenditure, is set at EUR 35,349,750.

In the budget year 2007, a maximum amount of EUR 11,050,250 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02

In the budget year 2008, a maximum amount of EUR 11,600,000 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02

In the budget year 2009, a maximum amount of EUR 12,699,500 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02

2. The maximum amount of the Community contribution and the resulting co-financing rate for each priority axis under the operational programme shall be as set out in the second, third and fourth subparagraphs.

The maximum amount of the Community contribution for Priority Axis 1 "Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions" is set at EUR 10,957,500 and the resulting co-financing rate is set at 75%.

The maximum amount of the Community contribution for Priority Axis 2 "Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy" is set at EUR 21,457,500 and the resulting co-financing rate is set at 75%.

The maximum amount of the Community contribution for Priority Axis 3 "Technical Assistance" is set at EUR 2,934,750 and the resulting co-financing rate is set at 75%.

3. The corresponding financial table is set out in Annex II.
4. This financing decision covers the Community contribution for the years specified in the financing table in Annex II and may be revised annually in accordance with the applicable multi-annual indicative financial framework and subject to budgetary availability

Article 3

The present decision will be implemented by means of a multi-annual Financing Agreement to be concluded between the Commission and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in conformity with the Framework Agreement concluded between the same parties on 27 August 2007. This Financing Agreement shall cover the elements set out in Article 8(4) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007.

Done at Brussels, 29/11/2007

For the Commission
Danuta Hübner
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

The Regional Development programme for "Regional Competitiveness" in Croatia

ANNEX II

Financial table of the Regional Development programme for "Regional Competitiveness" in Croatia

Years	Total Public Expenditure (€) (1)=(2)+(3)	Public Expenditure (€)		IPA co-financing rate (%) (4)=(2)/(1)
		Community Contribution (IPA) (€) (2)	National Public Contribution (€) (3)	
<i>Year 2007</i>				
<i>Priority Axis 1</i>	<i>4,567,667</i>	<i>3,425,750</i>	<i>1,141,917</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Priority Axis 2</i>	<i>8,943,000</i>	<i>6,707,250</i>	<i>2,235,750</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Technical Assistance</i>	<i>1,223,000</i>	<i>917,250</i>	<i>305,750</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Total Year 2007</i>	<i>14,733,667</i>	<i>11,050,250</i>	<i>3,683,417</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Year 2008</i>				
<i>Priority Axis 1</i>	<i>4,794,667</i>	<i>3,596,000</i>	<i>1,198,667</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Priority Axis 2</i>	<i>9,387,000</i>	<i>7,040,250</i>	<i>2,346,750</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Technical Assistance</i>	<i>1,285,000</i>	<i>963,750</i>	<i>321,250</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Total Year 2008</i>	<i>15,466,667</i>	<i>11,600,000</i>	<i>3,866,667</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Year 2009</i>				
<i>Priority Axis 1</i>	<i>5,247,667</i>	<i>3,935,750</i>	<i>1,311,917</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Priority Axis 2</i>	<i>10,280,000</i>	<i>7,710,000</i>	<i>2,570,000</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Technical Assistance</i>	<i>1,405,000</i>	<i>1,053,750</i>	<i>351,250</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Total Year 2009</i>	<i>16,932,667</i>	<i>12,699,500</i>	<i>4,233,167</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Years 2007-2009</i>				
<i>Priority Axis 1</i>	<i>14,610,001</i>	<i>10,957,500</i>	<i>3,652,501</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Priority Axis 2</i>	<i>28,610,000</i>	<i>21,457,500</i>	<i>7,152,500</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Technical Assistance</i>	<i>3,913,000</i>	<i>2,934,750</i>	<i>978,250</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Total Years 2007-2009</i>	<i>47,133,001</i>	<i>35,349,750</i>	<i>11,783,251</i>	<i>75%</i>